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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,086	11/13/2001	Katsuhide Yajima	Q67205	6338

7590 03/18/2002

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EXAMINER

ELKASSABGI, HEBA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,086

Applicant(s)

YAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Heba Elkassabgi

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Rotor motor with a coil resin bobbin.

Drawings

The subject matter of this application admits of illustration by a drawing to facilitate understanding of the invention. Drawings are needed to show the positional regulation part as stated in claim 1. Applicant is required to furnish a drawing under 37 CFR 1.81. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohi et al. U.S. Patent 5798589 and further in view of Hirano et al. U.S. Patent 6333579.

Ohi et al. illustrates in Figure 1 a brushless motor in which the coil bobbin (38,40,15, and 13) is positioned formed with a stator (12) that constitute laminated silicon sheet core plates (35). The slide bearings (17 and 29) acts as a thrust-positional regulation part within the rotor (5) and is mounted in coil bobbin (38,40,15, and 13) in the thrust-axial direction of the rotor (AA). The slide bearing (17) acts as the urging member on to the rotor and receives one end of the shaft. In addition, Ohi et al. illustrates a shaft (2) that is protruding from the bearing (16) with the mounting portion (3) (which acts as a lead screw) is formed on the upper end of the rotating shaft (2). The surface in contact with either the shaft of the rotor or the surface in contact with the bobbin act as a holding portion of the slide bearing. In Figure 4 Ohi et al. further teaches that a thrust stopper (6) (which the thrust stopper acts as an urging force) in the direction of the axis (AA) is supported on the rotor (5) with a nylon based washer (24) and a NBR rubber washer (25) provided between the thrust stopper and bearing (16) in order to reduce sliding resistance that is generated between the thrust stopper (6) and bearing (16). In addition, Ohi et al. though, fails to teach a stator coil bobbin that is made of resin.

Hirano et al. teaches that a stator core of an outer rotor -type generator consist of a bobbin that is made of synthetic resin.

Art Unit: 2834

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Ohi et al. by manufacturing the bobbin of synthetic resin in order to improve the structure of the insulating coil.

Referring to claim 1, no patentable weight has been given to the method of manufacturing limitations (i. e. the coil bobbin formed by an insert mold), since "even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrally contact the holding portion of the slide bearing with the coil bobbin, since it has been held that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together involves only routine skill in the art. Howard v. Detroit Stove Works, 150 U. S. 164 (1893).

Art Unit: 2834

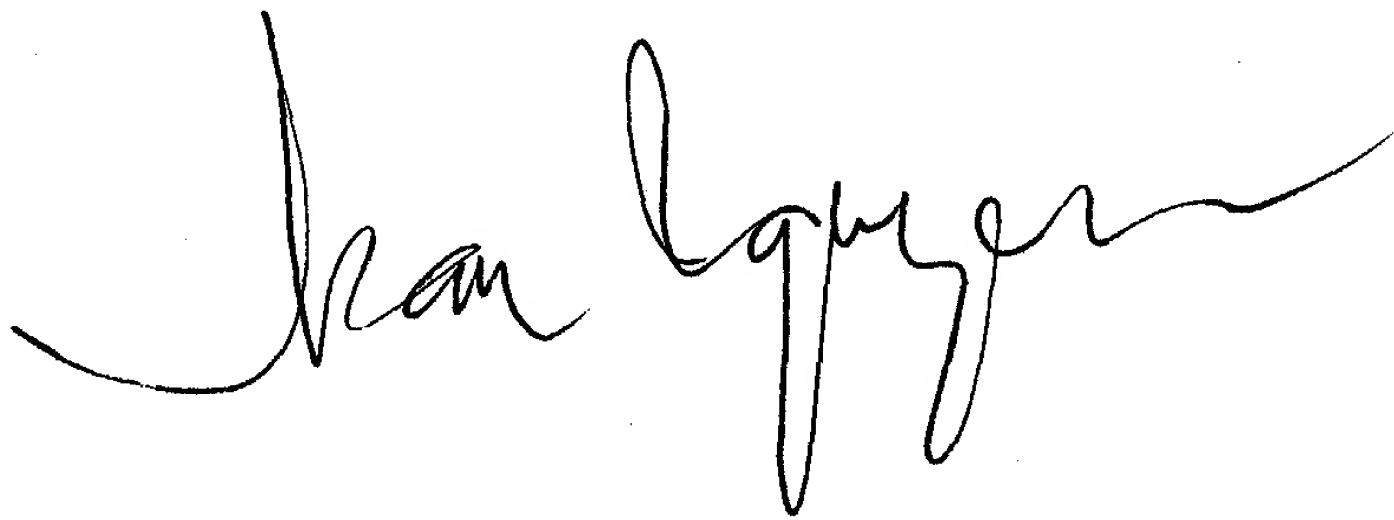
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heba Elkassabgi whose telephone number is (703) 305-2723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:30-3:30), and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

HYE
March 11, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tran Nguyen', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

TRAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER